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Section I: AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Second Amendment) A method for processing electronic transactions, said method comprising:

receiving input by a server terminal from a client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic transaction, said electronic transaction requiring a subsequent communication of an occurrence of a subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device;

establishing a second communication port on said client device for directly coupling said server terminal to said client device;

~~disconnecting said server terminal from said client device;~~

coupling ~~re-connecting~~ said server terminal to said client device through said second communication port by said server terminal upon an occurrence of said subsequent event; and

transferring said subsequent communication regarding said subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device over said second communication port, said electronic transaction comprising an auction transaction wherein bids for an item being auctioned are sent by said client device and received by said server terminal, said server terminal being operable for:

receiving bids for said item by said server terminal;

determining when a previously received bid is no longer a winning bid; and

sending notice that said previously received bid is no longer a winning bid, said notice comprising said transaction information sent over said second communication port, said client device

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being further operable for:

detecting receipt of said transaction information by said client device; and

providing a client-selected audio effect upon detection of receipt of said transaction information through said second communication port.

2. (Currently Cancelled).

3. (Currently Second Amendment) The method as set forth in claim 1 ~~claim 2~~ wherein said audio effect comprises an alert signal effective to alert a client that said transaction information has been received, said client device further including client input means arranged for enabling a client to select characteristics of said audio effect.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select one or more tones as said alert signal.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select a predetermined voice message as said alert signal.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5 wherein, in addition to said predetermined voice message, said input means is effective to enable said client to select from a number of audio signals to comprise said alert signal.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said electronic transaction comprises a purchase of an item by a client using said client device.

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8. (Currently Cancelled).
9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said client device is a computer system connected to said server terminal.
10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said client device is a wireless device.
11. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said wireless device is a cellular device.
12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said wireless device is a portable device.
13. (Currently Second Amendment) A system for processing electronic transactions, said system comprising:
 - a server terminal;
 - a client device; and
 - means arranged for selectively connecting said client device to said server terminal, said server terminal being selectively operable for:
 - receiving input by said server terminal from said client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic transaction, said electronic transaction requiring a subsequent communication of an occurrence of a subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device;
 - establishing a second communication port on said client device for directly coupling said server terminal to said client device;

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~~disconnecting said server terminal from said client device;~~
coupling re-connecting said server terminal to said client device through said second communication port by said server terminal upon an occurrence of said subsequent event; and

transferring said subsequent communication regarding said subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device over said second communication port, said electronic transaction comprising an auction transaction wherein bids for an item being auctioned are sent by said client device and received by said server terminal, said server terminal being operable for:

receiving bids for said item by said server terminal;

determining when a previously received bid is no longer a winning bid; and

sending notice that said previously received bid is no longer a winning bid, said notice comprising said transaction information sent over said second communication port, said client device being further operable for:

detecting receipt of said transaction information by said client device; and

providing a client-selected audio effect upon detection of receipt of said transaction information through said second communication port.

14. (Currently Cancelled).

15. (Currently Second Amendment) The system as set forth in claim 13 ~~claim 14~~ wherein said audio effect comprises an alert signal effective to alert a client that said transaction information has

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been received, said client device further including client input means arranged for enabling a client to select characteristics of said audio effect.

16. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 15 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select one or more tones as said alert signal.

17. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 15 wherein said input means is effective to enable said client to select a predetermined voice message as said alert signal.

18. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 17 wherein, in addition to said predetermined voice message, said input means is effective to enable said client to select from a number of audio signals to comprise said alert signal.

19. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said electronic transaction comprises a purchase of an item by a client using said client device.

20. (Currently Cancelled).

21. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said client device is a computer system connected to said server terminal.

22. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said client device is a wireless device.

23. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said wireless device is a cellular device.

24. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 22 wherein said wireless device is a portable device.

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25. (Currently Second Amendment) A server terminal arranged for processing electronic transactions, said server terminal comprising:

means for receiving input from a client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic transaction, said electronic transaction requiring a subsequent communication of an occurrence of a subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device;

means for establishing a second communication port on said client device for directly coupling said server terminal to said client device;

~~means for disconnecting said server terminal from said client device;~~

means for coupling re-connecting said server terminal to said client device through said second communication port by said server terminal upon an occurrence of said subsequent event; and

means for transferring said subsequent communication regarding said subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device over said second communication port, said electronic transaction comprising an auction transaction wherein bids for an item being auctioned are sent by said client device and received by said server terminal, said server terminal being operable for:

receiving bids for said item by said server terminal;

determining when a previously received bid is no longer a winning bid; and

sending notice that said previously received bid is no longer a

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winning bid, said notice comprising said transaction information sent over said second communication port, said client device being further operable for:

detecting receipt of said transaction information by said client device; and

providing a client-selected audio effect upon detection of receipt of said transaction information through said second communication port.

26. (Currently Second Amendment) A client device for participating in an electronic transaction, said client device comprising:

input means selectively operable for inputting client-related transaction information relevant to said electronic transaction;

means for transmitting said client-related transaction information to a server terminal over a first port, said server terminal being operable in response to said client-related transaction information for establishing a second port selectively operable for sending server-related transaction information to said client device;

~~means for disconnecting said server terminal from said client device;~~

means for coupling re-connecting said server terminal to said client device through said second port by said server terminal for sending server-related transaction information to said client device; and

means for selectively receiving said server-related transaction information from said server terminal over said second port, said

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electronic transaction comprising an auction transaction wherein bids for an item being auctioned are sent by said client device and received by said server terminal, said server terminal being operable for:

receiving bids for said item by said server terminal;

determining when a previously received bid is no longer a winning bid; and

sending notice that said previously received bid is no longer a winning bid, said notice comprising said transaction information sent over said second communication port, said client device being further operable for:

detecting receipt of said transaction information by said client device; and

providing a client-selected audio effect upon detection of receipt of said transaction information through said second communication port.

27. (Currently Cancelled).

28. (Currently Second Amendment) A storage medium including machine readable coded indicia, said machine readable coded indicia being selectively operable when executed within a computer system for accomplishing the steps of:

receiving input by a server terminal from a client device over a first communication port to initiate an electronic transaction, said electronic transaction requiring a subsequent communication of an occurrence of a subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device;

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establishing a second communication port on said client device for directly coupling said server terminal to said client device;

~~disconnecting said server terminal from said client device;~~

coupling re-connecting said server terminal to said client device through said second communication port by said server terminal upon an occurrence of said subsequent event; and

transferring said subsequent communication regarding said subsequent event from said server terminal to said client device over said second communication port, said electronic transaction comprising an auction transaction wherein bids for an item being auctioned are sent by said client device and received by said server terminal, said server terminal being operable for:

receiving bids for said item by said server terminal;

determining when a previously received bid is no longer a winning bid; and

sending notice that said previously received bid is no longer a winning bid, said notice comprising said transaction information sent over said second communication port, said client device being further operable for:

detecting receipt of said transaction information by said client device; and

providing a client-selected audio effect upon detection of receipt of said transaction information through said second communication port.